to expand grcca cover inhibit encroachment and check soil erosion, as also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs, and thereby reduce pressure on existing natural forest and protected areas.

The scheme under consideration will be finalised only after assessment of various issues involved.

United Nations Children's Conference on Environment in England

2468. SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND: DR. RANB1R SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Children's Conference on Environment in Eastbourne, England was organised in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether the conference was represented by India;

(d) whether Government propose to take up some programmes to encourage more and more children of the country to create awareness about environment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) An International Children's Conference on the Environment was organised by Conference Associates and Services International Ltd., at Eastbourne in the United Kingdom from 23—25 October, *W5.*

(b) The objectives of the Conference were to voice the concerns of children, to develop a global network to promote positive action and produce a charter to present to their respective Governments and the United Nations.

(c) Yes. Sir.

(d) and (c) Children are involved in environment,"! programmes through a scheme for 'Eco-club' of this Ministry. An Eco-club may be set up in a Government recognised middle/high school with 20—50 students. The Objectives of the scheme are:

— to educate children about their immediate environment and causes of its deterioration;

— to impart knowledge about the role of different factors in an eco-system, their inter-dependence and their need for survival, through field visits and demonstrations;

— to mobilise youngsters by instilling in them the spirit of scientific enquiry into environmental problems; and to involve students in environmental preservation efforts.

A sum of Rs. lOOOAper annum is provided to each eco-club. The best eco-clubs are also given awards annually.

गुजरात में पेट्रोलियम परियोजनाएं

2469. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी**: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार सौराष्ट्र के उदयमान तेल क्षेत्रों के कुछ प्रखंडों को कतिपय संयुक्त उद्यम परियोजनाओं को सौपनें पर विचार कर रही हैं;

(ख) यदि हां,तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं,

(ग) क्या इस प्रयोजनार्थ कुछ हद तक कोई विदेशी पूंजी आमंत्रित की गयी हैं;

(घ) क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय ने जामनगर में इस परियोजना के स्थापनार्थ अपनी स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी हैं;

(ड़) यदि हां,तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं,और

(च) क्या गुजरात उच्च न्यायालय ने मोटी खावड़ी परियोजना को पर्यावरण संबंधी मानदण्डों के उल्लंघन के लिए कोई आदेश जारी किया हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) और (ख) भारत सरकार ने संयुक्त उद्यम अन्वेषण कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत तेल और गैस के अन्वेषण के लिए निजी कंपनियों को गुजरात कच्छ तटीय बेसिन में जी के ओ एन जे-1

ब्लाक प्रस्तावित किया हैं,जिसमें सौराष्ट्र क्षेत्र का भाग सम्मिलित हैं । लेकिन इस ब्लाक के लिए कोई बोली प्राप्त नहीं हुई हैं ।

(ग) से (ड़) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(च) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही हैं और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Anti-India Propaganda by Pakistan

2470. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the fora in which Pakistan indulged in Anti-India propaganda during the last six months, forum-wise; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to counter such anti-India propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) In the past six months Pakistan has indulged in Anti-India propaganda particularly on the Kashmir issue, at various fora including the United Nations General Assembly, the World Summit on Social Development, World Conference on Women, the 11th NAM Summit at Cariegcna (Colombia) and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Mcctirg.

(b) The Indian representatives in their statements apprised the international community about the false and malicious nature of Pakistan's statements and the true facts of the situation including Pakistan's support to terrorism in India including in Jammu and Kashmir.

Violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980

2471. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 in allowing construction of VIP complex at Gangtok;

(b) whether clearance was given for the felling of over 1500 trees planted there; and

(c) if so, what arc the details thereof and what action Government propose to take in the matter keeping in view the fragile ecO-systcm of the Himalayan zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) A detailed report has been sought from the State Government of Sikkim. Reply is awaited.

Opening of Regional Passport Offices in Punjab

2472. SHRI IOBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are proposed by Government for opening more regional passport offices in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for not providing the necessary passports to the applicants within a short period in the State: and

(d) the necessary action which is being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) There is already a full fledged Passport Office in Punjab at Jalandhar, Besides, Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh also caters to the needs of applicant from 9 districts of the State of Punjab. A